REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, 12, and 15, have canceled claims 2, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 17-21, and have added claims 22-27 herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 9102(b) as being anticipated by Michelle L. Hankins, SIGNAL AFCEA'S International Journal, October 1999 "Integrated Circuit Chip Provides Secure, Rapid Data Encryption" ('Hankins').

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 5, 12, and 15, as amended, and new claims 22-27 recite the element of *"aggregating together the multiple security contexts and establishing an entry in a bank of initial variables for each context, there being at least as many encryption/decryption security context identifiers as a predetermined number of stages in the encryption/decryption process"*. This exemplary feature has not been found to be taught or suggested in Hankins. Additionally, amended claims 4 and 15 and new claims 23 and 26 recite elements that relate the present invention to modes of operation that *require feedback around the encryption/decryption engine*. The device described in Hankins does not disclose or teach a device that can keep the pipeline full for modes of operation that require feedback around the encryption/decryption engine.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended and claims newly added herein are allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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